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GDPR 2021: Everything just "paper compliance"?

Since 25 May 2018 with the GDPR a new data protection regime applies in the EU. While implementation of the new regulations was initially slow, the supervisory authorities are now getting increasingly tougher and applying strict standards, leading to steep fines even for minor infringements. In addition, customers, employees, contractual partners and, last but not least, data protection activists (see the recent <u>"Schrems II"</u> decision of the CJEU) are also exerting compliance pressure on companies and demanding data protection compliance, through legal action.

Many companies have adapted to the no longer quite so new requirements and set up GDPR projects. In practice, however, actual adherence to the GDPR often fails where compliance is simply regulated on paper. The practical implementation of the GDPR therefore poses challenges to the company's internal systems, processes and organisation.

The reality check

- Is there a functioning, technically implemented concept for erasure of data?
- Are there clear responsibilities for data protection?
- Is the processing overview up to date? Who is responsible for maintenance (central and decentralized)?
- Are data protection impact assessments carried out for risky system implementations?
- Are the employees sufficiently trained?
- Does the existing process work for data protection incidents?
- Review of data transfers: Qualification as a processing order or joint responsibility? Impact of decision of the CJEU in Schrems II?
- Is there a "change" process (i.e. are the existing specifications adjusted accordingly in the event of internal changes)?
- Are brief audits carried out to check compliance (see our overview of <u>GDPR audits</u>)?

Taylor Wessing can provide support

- Determination of the actual state of the GDPR implementation in the company
- Support in the systemic implementation of the GDPR
- Representation in proceedings with the supervisory authorities
- Advising on data-supported digitalization of business models and processes
- Risk assessment against the background of a complex legal framework due to new jurisdiction and legislation (e.g. <u>Cookies</u>, Schrems II, e-Privacy Regulation)
- And so much more...

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